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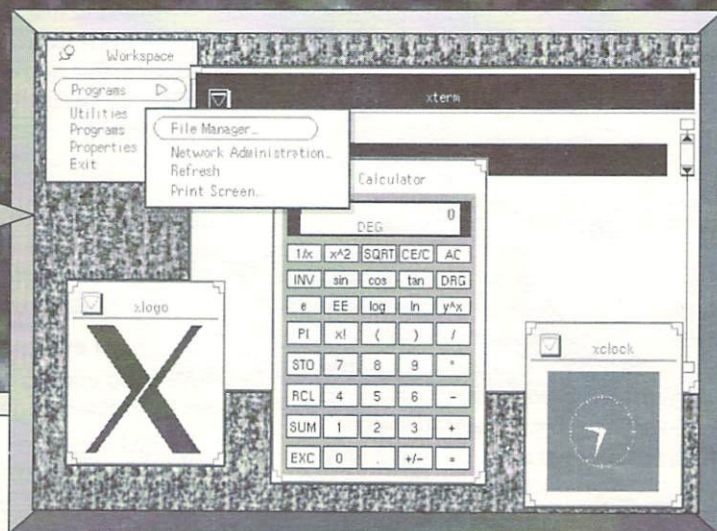
TOP 25 '90 GAMES

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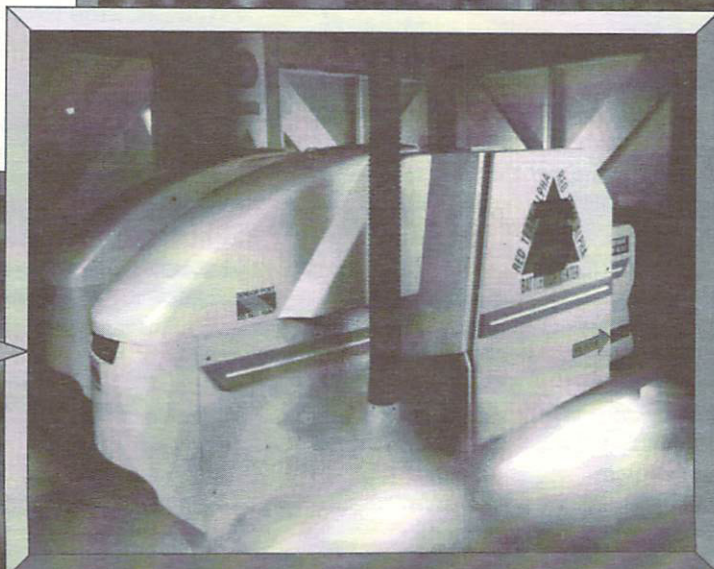
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.info WrapUp

NEW PRODUCTS

*I*NOVAtronics has two add-on products to use with *CanDo*, their multimedia applications generator. **Intro Pak** is a 7-deck tutorial to guide the neophyte through the intricacies of working with *CanDo*, while **Pro Pak 1** includes some games, a paint program, and some extensions to *CanDo* itself. Each package retails for $39.95. 8499 Greenville Ave., Suite 209B, Dallas, TX 75231. 214-340-4991.

Neural networks are the latest thing in artificial intelligence research and if you've been curious about them, *MegageM*'s newest product, **NeuralPro**, will give you the opportunity to dive into the field. The program operates within the architecture of what is called 3-layer back-propagation and supports up to 192 network elements (commonly referred to as 'neurons') and 4096 interconnections. It uses a color-graphic metaphor, which provides the means for analyzing the process. The package works with standard 68000 machines, though it's specifically designed to recognize and use math coprocessors. $89.95. 1903 Adria, Santa Maria, CA 93454. 805-349-1104.

AMIGA IN THE MEDIA

✓ The December issue of *Cinefantastique* magazine contains a fascinating article describing how a Los Angeles based special effects firm is using their Amiga computer to design zombies for the recently released remake of George Romero's *Night of the Living Dead*. The article is entitled "The Zombies of Hard Disc Hell."
- Chris Markiewicz, Rocky Hill, CT

✓ While visiting Plzen, Czechoslovakia recently we spied a poster advertising a Czech user group. They supported everything, including the unheard-of Commodore 116, but no mention of a 128. Wouldn't you know the Communist bureaucracy uses 'Big Brother' IBM machines, but the people know what's best. - Keith Keller, Ladora, IA

✓ I've got two sightings of Amigas in print, both in the magazine *Mondo 2000* (Summer 1990, issue number 2.) On page 24 they cite the Amiga computer as "the only serious option for voyagers without trust funds or professional status." The second article concerns virtual reality and the Amiga is mentioned as a alternative to the Sun SPARCStation as a machine for virtual reality. *Mondo 2000* is an interesting magazine dealing with cyberspace, music, and altered states.
- Kurt Kreitzer, Gresham, OR
[Editor's Note - Mondo 2000 gives new meaning to the word 'interesting.' With a managing editor whose name is R.U. Sirius, how could it be anything else?]

✓ Check out the amazing Amiga 500 as advertised and pictured in this year's *Sears Wish Book*, page 657. At first I couldn't figure out what was different. Then it hit me: the screen display showed this machine running "PCTOOLS" off an internal MS/DOS hard drive! There was a clearly pictured DOS-style path directory 'c: PCTOOLSSample.DBF'. What a price breakthrough this would represent - an A500 that runs MS/DOS with an internal hard drive for only $15 a month! I should have bought this deal instead of my

A3000 and saved a couple of grand.
- Monroe Roden, APO, NY
[Editor's Note - Not only is the 1084S monitor quite obviously picturing an MS/DOS program, but nothing's plugged in... not even the mouse! We won't even get started on the misleading and just-plain-wrong text blurb. What could these marketing bozos be thinking?]

ANIMATIA ROMA

The Adriatic Coast Amiga Users Club (Italy) is sponsoring its fourth annual *Bit.Movie*, 1991. *Bit.Movie* is a show of computer graphics and a competition of real-time computer animation. The 1991 show will be held April 25-28th at the Palace of Tourism in Riccone, Italy, if you happen to be traveling on the Continent next spring. More than 2500 people attended the 1990 show. None other than Brad Schenck was awarded second prize for his animation "The Sentinel" at the 1990 exhibition. Cash prizes vary from £1500 - £500. For more information on entering the animation competition write to: Adriatic Coast Amiga Users Club, c/o Carlo Mainardi, Via Bologna n.13, 47036 Riccone, Italy. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 1991.

ANARCHY ✰✰✰✰

Psygnosis, 2150 Executive Drive, Addison, IL 60101, 312-620-4444

A *Defender*-type blast-fest, *Anarchy* offers nothing in the way of innovation but loads in the way of fast action and joystick-jerking breathlessness. The idea is to eliminate aliens while protecting your life-support canisters. The fine graphics and blazing parallax scrolling give a satisfying illusion of depth. The number of animated bad guys to blast at is almost overwhelming. (Actually, they frequently *are* overwhelming.) Trademark Psygnosis graphics and stereo music support the ensemble. If alien blasting for fun and profit is your idea of a good time, don't miss *Anarchy*. - JKC

GAME TIPS

Here are more great Amiga game tips for subscribers only!

Fighter Bomber: Enter your name as *buckaroo*. The computer will say 'oh no, it's a buckaroo.' Now you can try all 16 of the missions. - Fred Selker

Thunderblade: Type *crash* on the high score table and you can skip levels with the HELP key. - Fred Selker

Unreal: On animation screen with the 3D balls, type *ordilogicus* and hit RETURN. The screen should flash white, and you should have unlimited energy in your next game. You can also skip levels by pressing RETURN. - Zach Meston

.info WrapUp

HYPERBOOK

Gold Disk has announced a new software title called *Hyper-Book*, which they call a "free-form personal information manager." Intended as an alternative to authoring systems, *HyperBook* is intended to be used for day-to-day tasks, while still being capable of creating stand-alone specialized database applications or interactive presentations. The program can be popped open at any time to jot down notes and diagrams without advance planning, which can can later be turned into a database, presentation, or teaching tool. *HyperBook* is a multimedia database that combines text and graphics on the electronic "pages" of computerized "books." Actions can be attached to objects on the pages, linking any object with new pages or other graphical or textual data with the click of a mousebutton. Included are a built-in graphical text editor supporting multiple fonts and a multifaceted built-in drawing editor. IFF support includes cropping, color remapping, scaling, and resizing.

If you've been speculating what the new A3500 "tower case" Amiga 3000 might look like, our sources indicate it will look a lot like the unit pictured here, which is Commodore's PC60-III. Note the two 3.5" and two 5.25" drive bays.

There are 17 special graphics wipe effects. Full ARexx support is provided, with an additional 130 functions. Pricing was unavailable at presstime. Gold Disk Inc., 5155 Spectrum Way, Unit #5, Mississauga, Ontario Canada, L4W 5A1, 800-465-3375 ✵

UPDATE

Mindware's TASS application development system is now at version 2.0. Retail price of the system is $199/US; contact Mindware for information on upgrading from previous version. 110 Dunlop W 22158, Barrie, ON Canada L4M 5R3. 705-919-5998.